

REMARKS

Claim 22 has been amended to correct the typographical error noted by the Examiner.

All of the pending claims are variously rejected under 35 USC 103(a) based on various combinations of Eizenburg et al., Tso, Stanfield, "Official Notice", Vogt et al. and SODA '99 Form.

The Examiner's Response to Arguments has been carefully reviewed. The Applicant continues to disagree with the Examiner's use of Stanfield (e.g., paragraph 0022) for rejecting the claims. It is again pointed out that the disclosure of Stanfield states only:

"The electronic reservation referral-system and method of the present invention is well suited for conventions, trade shows and professional meetings. The electronic reservation referral system and method can send interactive emails to potential attendees well in advance of an event, allowing them to make the appropriate reservations for the event, hotel accommodations, flights, etc. In addition to helping organizers promote their event, the electronic reservation referral system and method can help organizers forecast attendance; reserve the appropriate meeting space, market conference materials, etc. Professional organizations can use the electronic reservation referral-system of the present invention to **conduct important pre-conference business, such as votes or polls**, as well as to attract new members from lists of names and emails supplied by existing members. The present system will also reduce costs for event support staff and logistics."

It is again pointed out that these "votes or polls" are not related to travel *per se*, but are instead related to the convention, trade show and professional meeting that is the purpose of the trip. The fact that "votes or polls" are mentioned in the context of the "electronic reservation referral system and method" does not change the fact that there is no express disclosure or suggestion of an aspect of the present invention.

In order to facilitate the prosecution of this patent application to issuance, and without expressly

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or impliedly admitting that the Applicants are in agreement with the Examiner's rationale for rejecting the claims, each of the independent claims 1, 7, 16 and 30 have been amended to include a recitation of:

"where one of said tools enables trip participants to vote on at least one of trip destination and trip dates" (claims 1, 7, 16); or

as in claim 30:

"further comprising a tool configured to enable trip participants to electronically vote on at least one of trip destination and trip dates."

Dependent claim 31 was amended to state that the "tool configured to enable trip participants to electronically vote is further configured to enable the trip participants to electronically vote on a choice of hotel."

Clearly, the disclosure of Stanfield as it pertains to the electronic reservation referral-system and method does not expressly disclose or suggest this subject matter.

Further, the disclosure of Vogt et al. in paragraph [0052], as it pertains to a "polling or voting tool", does not expressly disclose or suggest the subject matter now found in each of the independent claims.

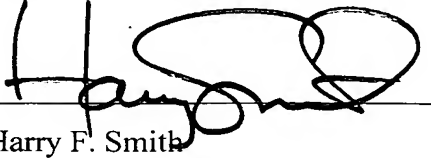
The independent claims of this patent application are clearly in condition for allowance over the various combinations of references cited and applied by the Examiner. In that all of the independent claims are allowable, then all of the dependent claims are allowable as well, for at least this one reason alone.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and remove the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), and to allow all of the pending claims as now presented for examination. An early notification of the allowability of all of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

4/30/2008
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